

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/484,911

Examiner

JEAN B. FLEURANTIN

Applicant(s)

HAGIWARA ET AL.

Art Unit

2162

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/04/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-19.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 18 January 2000 and 08 April 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's arguments, filed 10/4/04 and 4/8/04, with respect to claims 1-19 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, claims 1-19 are allowed over the prior art of record.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to claims 1, 5 and 11-13, the claimed features "a computerized search system for searching a plurality of search condition combinations in an information search comprising an instructing device instructing the specified plurality of execution times of the full text search, and instructing text information specified by each of the combinations being searched for in each execution of the full text search, wherein the plurality of search condition combinations are input as components of a single search, making the search multi-dimensional" in combination with other element of the independent claims would not found anticipated or obvious over the prior art made of record. With respect to claims 14-16, the claimed features "a computerized search method for searching a plurality of search condition combinations in an information search comprising collectively specifying the plurality of search condition combination in a full text search, each of the combinations representing any search query which includes a plurality of search conditions for the text information, wherein the plurality of search condition combinations are input as components of the single search, making

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the search multi-dimensional" in combination with other element of the independent claims would not found anticipated or obvious over the prior art made of record. With respect to claims 17 and 18, the claimed features "a computerized search system for searching a plurality of search condition elements an information search comprising using a plurality of queries specified by all combinations of each of the search condition elements in each of the search conditions types, text information specified by each of the plurality of queries being searched for in each execution of the full text search, and multi-dimensional query specification information specifying a plurality of search conditions types" in combination with other element of the independent claims would not found anticipated or obvious over the prior art made of record. With respect to claim 19, the claimed features "a computerized search system for searching a plurality of search conditions elements in an information search comprising a generating device automatically generating a plurality of search expressions which cover all possible combinations of the search conditions registered to the input array" in combination with other element of the independent claims would not found anticipated or obvious over the prior art made of record.

The dependent claims, being definite, further limiting, and fully enabled by the specification are also allowed.

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3. The closest prior art, Hatakeyama et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,454,105 relates generally to an information (data) search or retrieval system which allows a plurality of users to utilize in a time-sharing mode a function or facility for searching full text of documents containing a particular character string or strings from a document database or databases. Akizawa U.S. Patent No. 5,452,451 relates to a method and apparatus for high-speed searching of non-structural data in a system such as a data base or a document filing system in which information including non-numeric data is processed but fail to teach the above limitations.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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CONTACT INFORMATION


5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JEAN B. FLEURANTIN whose telephone number is 571 – 272-4035. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:05 to 4:35.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JOHN E BREENE can be reached on 571 – 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Jean Bolte Fleurantin

February 4, 2005


SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER